

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Schmidl at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, September 14, 2023.

PRESENT: President Schmidl, Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Guzman, Ghag, Kirchner, Link and Corazza

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of August 10, 2023
- B. Bills for August 2023

A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link approving the consent agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF NECESSARY FY2022-2023 BUDGET TRANSFERS: BOARD ACTION IS REQUIRED TO TRANSFER FUNDS BETWEEN SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND OTHER CHARGES. Abshier noted due to an increase in the amount we are charged by the Treasurer's office for collecting the District's tax revenue, a budget transfer is needed. The Treasurer's office charges a percent of all expenses incurred in operating their office to each agency, according to their share of the total pool held by Sutter County. The increase is due primarily to the filling of the vacant Treasurer Tax Collector position following the retirement of Steve Harrah. Abshier requested that the Board approve a budget transfer of \$2,378.34 from Salaries and Benefits to Other Charges. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Sanbrook to transfer \$2,378.34 from Salaries and Benefits to Other Charges. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO SET THE DISTRICT FORECASTED RESERVES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 2023-2024 BUDGET: THIS ACTION WILL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH GASB 54. Manager Abshier presented the Board with his recommendation for the reserves budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The amount going into reserves stands at just below \$525,000. The interest earned on our reserves saw a huge increase of \$117,556, the amount anticipated was \$43,601. The revenue from Yuba County was 127% of the expected amount while Sutter County saw a 107% increase over what was expected. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Ghag approving the District's 2023-2024 Forecasted Reserve Implementation Plan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT OF FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES (FRMS). The District must be a FRMS JPA member to receive the health, dental and vision insurance rates quoted by Keenan & Associates: Abshier advised the District has been preapproved to join the FRMS JPA. The agreement requires a three year commitment with a 90 day termination notice. Abshier added District council, Bordsen had no concerns with joining the JPA. There are no costs to the District to join the FRMS. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Kirchner to approve joining of the Fire and Risk Management Services (FRMS) JPA. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MANAGERS CONTRACT FOR STEPHEN ABSHIER, EFFECTIVE 10-1 2023: Abshier noted, the current contract is ending September 30, 2023. Board consensus was to have members complete manager performance evaluations before looking at a new five year contract. Additionally, the Board would enter into a closed session to discuss the findings of the evaluations. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Corazza to add a one month extension to Abshier's contract. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS: Abshier reported that three West Nile Virus human cases have officially been reported in Sutter County. Thus far in Sutter County, 17 chickens, 63 mosquito pools, and six dead birds have tested positive for the year. In Yuba County three humans have been confirmed positive for WNV. Thus far in Yuba County, 25 mosquito pools and seven chickens and one horse have tested positive. No dead birds have tested positive in Yuba County this year. Abshier noted he had spoken with Dr. Luu (Bi-County Health officer) and was notified of updated case numbers, five cases in both Yuba and Sutter Counties with four additional cases being investigated. Statewide, there have been 98 human cases this year compared to 41 human cases at this time last year.

Mosquito abundance in the New Jersey Light Traps is showing that *Culex tarsalis* numbers showed a small increase due primarily to two trap sites west of Yuba City. The abundance numbers for *tarsalis* look very good, however, more of the *tarsalis* at this time tend to test positive for West Nile Virus. *Culex pipiens*, at this time, seem to be right on track with our 10-year average. *Anopheles freeborni* numbers are nearly twice the 10-year average and five times higher than this time last year. The high *Anopheles* numbers have resulted in a huge number of calls for service. In response, we have increased many town spray areas to twice weekly and added additional aircraft adulticide flights.

We have slowed control efforts for the invasive *Aedes aegypti* due to personnel demands from the high number of requests for service as a result of the huge *Anopheles* numbers. We have done some trial treatments with an Altosid liquid product, results have been inconclusive. We are hopeful another material, Natular liquid may show promising control results. No other Districts have been successful eradicating the invasives. The long-term outlook appears that we are slowing their expansion, but not eradicating them completely.

Duck clubs have been flooding and we are looking to control mosquito production with more larvicide, rather than adulticide. Adulticiding doesn't appear to be as effective at beating the mosquitoes back in these situations. MOU agreements that we have with the duck clubs allow us to better work cooperatively with them. The Duck Clubs keep us informed as to when they will be flooding and in exchange, they pay for the cost of the material we use to treat mosquitoes but face no labor costs. This is a win-win for both parties involved.

We have had the airplane out spraying adulticide over 403,073 acres year-to-date. We expect 1 more cycle over orchards to take place to further reduce *Anopheles* numbers. Additionally, 253,624 acres have been sprayed by truck missions this year to date.

The manager reported on the following:

- The annual District audit report should be completed by October 5th and available for the the November or December meeting.
- Board members are asked to return a completed performance evaluation to the office by September 30.
- The JPA balance reported last meeting (\$281,378).
- All radio ads have ended.
- September 30th is set to be the final day for all remaining summer and the seasonal staff.
- We continue to monitor New Jersey light traps to determine the ending of our fogging programs.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: Corazza asked Abshier to have radio ads forwarded to him.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Link to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. President Schmidl adjourned the meeting.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary